

LIBRARY

MARKET HARBOROUGH  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1950

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

R. W. KIND, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health



# Market Harborough Rural District Council.

## ANNUAL REPORT.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

<i>Area (in acres)</i>	...	...	...	...	45,166
<i>No. of inhabited houses (end of 1950)</i>					
<i>according to rate books</i>	...	...	...	...	2,902
<i>Rateable Value, 1st April, 1950</i>	...	...	...	...	£42,723
<i>Sum represented by a penny rate</i>	...	...	...	...	£168 13 7

### POPULATION:—

Registrar General's estimate	...	...	9,660
------------------------------	-----	-----	-------

TABLE showing the Registrar General's estimate of the population trends during the past ten years:—

1941	...	9,688	1946	...	8,809
1942	...	9,448	1947	...	9,311
1943	...	9,497	1948	...	9,810
1944	...	9,110	1949	...	9,900
1945	...	8,713	1950	...	9,660

### BIRTHS:—

				1949	1950
<i>Live Births:—</i>	Legitimate	Male	...	91	92
		Female	...	92	81
		Total	...	183	173
	Illegitimate	Male	...	3	1
		Female	...	2	2
		Total	...	5	3
Total live births		Male	...	94	93
		Female	...	94	83
		Total	...	188	176
<i>Stillbirths:—</i>	Legitimate	Male	...	5	4
		Female	...	1	8
		Total	...	6	12

*Birthrate per 1,000 estimated population:—*

			1949	1950
Market Harborough	...	...	18.9	18.2
England and Wales	...	...	16.7	15.8

*Illegitimate birthrate per 1,000 live births:—*

Market Harborough	...	...	26.5	17.0
-------------------	-----	-----	------	------

*Stillbirths:—* Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths:— 30.9 69.1

Rate per 1,000 estimated population:—

Market Harborough	...	...	0.60	1.2
England and Wales	...	...	0.39	0.37

TABLE showing the changes in the total live births and in the birth rates during the past ten years:—

Year	Total Live Births, Market Harborough	Birth Rates (per 1,000 population)		
		Market Harborough	Leicester-shire	England & Wales
1941	116	11.8	14.6	14.2
1942	114	12.1	17.3	15.8
1943	167	17.6	19.6	16.5
1944	181	19.9	21.1	17.6
1945	134	15.4	18.8	16.1
1946	172	19.5	20.6	19.1
1947	193	20.1	21.2	20.5
1948	165	17.1	18.84	17.9
1949	188	18.9	17.35	16.7
1950	176	18.2	16.17	15.8

*DEATHS:—*

			1949	1950
Total Number of Deaths:—Male	...	...	62	61
Female	...	...	54	62
Total	...	...	116	123

*Death rate per 1,000 estimated population:—*

Market Harborough	...	...	11.7	12.5
England and Wales	...	...	11.7	11.6

TABLE showing the changes in the total number of deaths and in the death rates during the past ten years:—

Year	Total Deaths, Market Harborough	Death Rate (per 1,000 population) Not corrected for age or for sex distribution of the population		
		Market Harborough	Leicester- shire	England & Wales
1941	124	12.8	11.0	12.9
1942	118	12.5	10.4	11.6
1943	111	11.7	11.3	12.1
1944	107	11.7	11.2	11.6
1945	134	15.4	11.1	11.4
1946	87	9.9	10.7	11.5
1947	113	12.1	11.3	12.0
1948	101	10.29	9.77	10.8
1949	116	11.7	10.68	11.7
1950	123	12.5	10.28	11.6

Deaths from puerperal causes:—

				1949	1950
<i>No. of deaths:—</i>					
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	—	—
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	—	—

*Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths:—*

Market Harborough	...	...	...	—	—
England and Wales	...	...	...	0.98	0.86

*Death of Infants under 1 year of age:—*

<i>No. of deaths:—</i>					
Legitimate	Male	...	...	2	2
	Female	...	...	—	2
	Total	...	...	2	4

*Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births:—*

Market Harborough	...	...	...	10.6	22.7
England and Wales	...	...	...	32.0	29.8

*Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:—*

				1950
Legitimate	Male	...	...	1
	Female	...	...	1
	Total	...	...	2



## CAUSES OF DEATH.

*Registrar General's Classification.*

						1950		
						Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, bronchus and lung	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	8	2	10
15.	Leukaemia and aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	...	...	...	...	3	10	13
18.	Coronary disease and angina	...	...	...	...	8	9	17
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	15	19	34
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	6	—	6
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosia	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	4	7	11
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
All causes ... .. TOTAL						61	62	123

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sanitary Inspector:—Mr. R. W. Turner.

I am indebted to Mr. R. W. Turner for the following information upon the sanitary circumstances of the area:—

### WATER SUPPLY.

Mains water supplies where laid on, continued to be satisfactory. A comprehensive survey of well supplies showed that out of 50 wells examined, three were satisfactory, nine unsatisfactory and 38 dangerous.

In all villages without mains supply there have been shortages, in particular in the villages of East Langton, Stonton Wyville, Husbands Bosworth and Mowsley, and in these villages water was carted and distributed by this authority's vehicles and workmen.

The mains to the villages of Shangton, Tur Langton, Church Langton, East Langton, West Langton and Thorpe Langton were completed during the year and almost all of the houses are connected. Various farms and fields have also been connected, up to the quantity of water allowed us daily by the Leicester Corporation, viz. 38,000 gallons.

Samples of mains supplies of water taken for bacteriological and chemical analysis by the suppliers were found to be satisfactory.

(a)	Number of dwelling houses having a piped water supply laid into the houses ... ..	1835
(b)	Number of parishes with a piped water supply—	
	from public mains ... ..	12
	from private reservoirs ... ..	2
(c)	Number of parishes without a piped supply of water ... ..	17
(d)	Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water ... ..	163

Negotiations are still proceeding between this Council and the Market Harborough Urban District Council regarding a mains supply to the parishes of Husbands Bosworth and Theddingworth, and permission has been given in the cases of Mowsley, Laughton and Gumley for these parishes to be supplied by the Leicester Corporation. Work on this scheme was scheduled to commence in October of this year, but owing to the situation regarding pipes, etc., the starting date for these latter three parishes has been put back to at least May, 1953.

The East Leicestershire Scheme which covers the remaining parishes in the area is still in the primary stages. This is because the Leicester Corporation, who would be the suppliers, are changing from the Derwent Valley to the River Dove Scheme.

No. of wells cleansed, etc. (public)	...	...	...	Nil.
No. of houses relying on well supplies	...	...	...	937
No. of wells closed	...	...	...	2
No. of samples taken from wells for chemical analysis—				
(a) Satisfactory	...	...	...	5
(b) Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	2

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No. of cesspools constructed during the year	...	...	10
No. of cesspools abolished during the year	...	...	Nil.
Total number in the district, December 31st, 1950	...	...	199

Two short extensions of sewer were laid during the year in the parishes of Fleckney and Foxton, to serve properties which had not previously enjoyed the benefits of a main sewer.

There are nine filter systems and three land irrigation sewage disposal systems in the district.

### *Post-War Proposals.*

New sewers are in the process of being laid for the parish of Smeeton Westerby, and joint outfall works will be provided at Kibworth Beauchamp.

A proposal for new sewers and outfall works for the parish of Saddington has been provisionally approved by the Ministry of Health, and it is proposed, if possible, to commence work around July this year.

Schemes for Theddingworth, Drayton and Shangton and four of the five Langtons (four Langtons—three schemes), which have been designed by the Council's Engineers, are still no more advanced regarding Ministry approval than they were when the 1949 Report was presented to you.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Total numbers in the district on 31st Dec., 1950:—

(a) Privies	...	...	...	...	...	165
(b) Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	84
(c) Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	2228



Number of privies converted to the water carriage system during the year	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Number of pail closets converted to the water carriage system during the year	...	...	...	...	6
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

All earth closets and privies are cleansed by the occupiers. During the year a dual purpose vehicle (cesspool emptier and refuse collector) has been purchased by the Council, and it is proposed to cleanse public cesspools at three-monthly intervals, and to cleanse private cesspools on request.

### *PUBLIC CLEANSING.*

House refuse is removed fortnightly by direct labour. Two motor vehicles, one of five, one of seven cubic yards capacity (covered), are used. These cover the whole area. Trade refuse is removed on application. Charges are made in accordance with the time and distance from the nearest tip.

Four crude tips are in use at Kibworth, Foxton, Hallaton and Mowsley.

### *SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.*

Total number of complaints received	...	...	...	110
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered	...	...	...	87

#### *Sanitary Inspections of the Area.*

Animal keeping	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dairies and cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	78
Drainage works	...	...	...	...	...	963
Dwelling houses (all purposes)	...	...	...	...	...	281
Food premises	...	...	...	...	...	83
Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Rodent control	...	...	...	...	...	12
Refuse collection and disposal	...	...	...	...	...	121
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	20
Slaughterhouses and meat inspection	...	...	...	...	...	15
Tents, vans, sheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	1373
Workshops, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	11
Other inspections	...	...	...	...	...	757

Total Inspections	...	...	...	3724
-------------------	-----	-----	-----	------

*Notices served during the year:—*

		Housing	Public Health
Outstanding on January 1st, 1950	...	5	8
Issued during year	... ..	34	80
Complied with during year	... ..	35	82
Statutory action necessary	... ..	—	—
Outstanding on December 31st, 1950	...	4	6

*Camping Sites.*

No. of sites in area used for camping purposes during the year	... ..	None used frequently.
No. of camping sites for which licences have been issued for individual caravans only	... ..	1

*RODENT CONTROL.*

Tips are regularly disinfected by Contract with the L.A.E.C. Clearing of small infestations carried out by Council workmen, and occupiers charged on time and material basis. Sewers in the parishes of Kibworth Beauchamp, Kibworth Harcourt and Lubenham were cleared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries operators in conjunction with the Public Health Department.

*SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.*

No. in the area (a) publicly owned	... ..	Nil.
(b) privately owned	...	1
No. of inspections made	... ..	1

*INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**MILK.*

*Dairies (other than dairy farms) and Distributors, Section 8, Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.*

*Dairies.*

No. on Register	... ..	2
Inspections made	... ..	64

*Distributors.*

No. on Register	... ..	4
Inspections made	... ..	14

*Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.*

Dealers' licences issued—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Supplementary licences issued—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

*Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.*

Dealers' licences issued	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Supplementary licences issued	...	...	...	...	...	1

*Milk Sampling:—*

*Ordinary Milk—*

No. of samples taken for bacteriological examination						10
No. found to be satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. found to be unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	9

*Biological Examination of Milk.*

The quarterly examination of milk, instituted in 1949, was continued throughout 1950. 62 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for guinea pig inoculation and all proved to be free from living tubercle bacilli.

*ICE CREAM.*

*No. of premises registered:—*

Manufacture and retail	...	...	...	...	...	3
Manufacture only	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Retail only	...	...	...	...	...	9
No. of samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

The greater part of the area is serviced by ice cream vendors from Leicester, Uppingham and Market Harborough.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are no Regional Slaughterhouses in the area. Pigs slaughtered by local cottagers are examined on request. There are no Knackers' Yards in the area.

*Food Condemned during the year.*

French Pork	...	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	60 lbs.
Mixed tinned meats	...	...	...	...	49 lbs.
No. of inspections made at meat shops, stores, etc.	...				35
No. of inspections made at places where food, other than meat, is prepared	...	...	...	...	83

## HOUSING.

1. *New Houses.*

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	416
No. of houses completed during the year by Local Authority (permanent)	...	...	...	...	22
Average cost per house	...	...	...	...	£1525
Average rent, inc. or exc. of rates	...	...	...	...	13/6
Houses completed by private enterprise	...	...	...	...	7
Houses in course of erection at end of year, by Local Authority (permanent)	...	...	...	...	27
Average cost per house	...	...	...	...	£1525
Average rent	...	...	...	...	13/6
Total number of post-war houses completed:—					
(1) Local Authority	...	...	...	...	187
(2) Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	17

2. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.*

(a) Total number of houses inspected during the year for Housing Defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	281
No. of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	480
(b) No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be in a state unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	15



- (c) No. of houses (exclusive of those referred to in sub-heading preceding), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 266
3. *Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice.*
- No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers ... 35
4. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*
- Demolition Orders were made in respect of two houses, which were subsequently demolished.
5. *Housing Act, 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding.*
- The extent of overcrowding is unknown.

#### *General Observations.*

Generally speaking, the housing conditions, especially in small villages, are very poor and owing to the very low rents paid, great difficulty has been experienced in getting anything other than minor repairs carried out.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The common infectious diseases followed the expected trends. The incidence of certain of these diseases is shown in tabular form analysed into age and sex distribution.

A case of paratyphoid fever was notified during the year and the investigations carried out are described in Appendix A.

#### *Immunisation.*

Facilities for immunisation against diphtheria continue to be provided free under the terms of the National Health Service Act. 133 children under the age of five years received their primary inoculation, whilst a further 24 children of school age received further treatment to prolong their immunity.

#### *Tuberculosis.*

The new cases and deaths from tuberculosis are displayed in tabular form showing the age and sex distribution.

At the close of the year there were 32 cases of pulmonary and six cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis on the Register.

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

TABLE 1. Table showing the cases of infectious diseases notified during the year:—

Age Group	Scarlet fever		Whooping Cough		Measles		Acute Pneumonia		Dysentery	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	1	—	4	1	1	—	—	—
1	—	—	7	6	12	20	—	—	—	—
3	1	2	4	6	18	17	—	—	2	1
5	—	—	13	15	44	28	—	—	4	4
10	1	2	—	1	4	4	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
25	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total:	2	4	25	28	82	72	4	1	11	9

TABLE 2. Table showing new cases and deaths from Tuberculosis during the year:—

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths *			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1
45	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total:	6	2	1	—	3	—	1	1

\*In addition, one death has occurred in which pulmonry tuberculosis was a major contributory factor.

*Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.*

Premises.	No. on Register.	Inspections made.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	23	25
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is to be enforced by Local Authority	57	63
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	11	14
Total:	91	102

*Outwork (Section 110 and 111).*

Nature of Work.	No. of Workers on List.
Wearing apparel—Making, etc.	120



## APPENDIX A.

On March 1st, 1950, a case of paratyphoid fever was notified. The sufferer was a resident of the National Assistance Board Polish Hostel at Lubenham, and attended the school at that Hostel.

Investigation at the Hostel showed that the residents were all displaced persons who for many years had lived in Camps in countries as widely separated as South Africa, Palestine, Italy, Germany, Egypt, India and the Lebanon. Their past history in respect of typhoid and paratyphoid fever could only be regarded as suspect, and the presence of carriers was to be expected.

The case referred to above took meals at the Nursery School. The kitchen staffs of the primary school and nursery school were therefore examined for the presence of carriers. The number of persons concerned in this first survey was twenty-seven females and ten males, all but one of these having recently received protective inoculation against typhoid and paratyphoid fever.

Three samples of faeces and urine were taken from each of these persons and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory. The results showed that one person, the supervisor of the nursery school kitchen and the only person not protected by inoculation, was a carrier. This woman was immediately suspended from duty and admitted to Hospital for treatment.

Next the children attending the schools were examined; three samples of faeces and urine from each of eighteen girls and nineteen boys at the primary school and from thirteen girls and four boys at the nursery, were submitted to the Laboratory, and a further three carriers were detected. A survey of the adult community subsequently revealed the presence of two more carriers. These carriers were all admitted to Hospital for treatment, which appeared to be successful in two cases. The remainder were released from Hospital still in their carrier state.

During the absence of the carriers from the Camp, a systematic examination of the sewage effluent had been instituted, and immediately after the return of the carriers to resume residence, the bacilli of paratyphoid commenced to appear in the sewage. The presence of a number of carriers in a Camp where sanitation was not entirely satisfactory, and where notions of hygiene were occasionally elementary, was considered serious enough to warrant special attention.



The first carrier discovered eased our problem by leaving the Camp and the district in order to get married. The remaining carriers were all members of two families and these were isolated in quarters separate from other residential lots, and were provided with their own separate lavatory accommodation. Strict attention to personal hygiene was insisted on, together with the disinfection of all faeces, urine and laundry.

Frequent examinations were made of the drainage system and the efficiency of the preventive measures adopted was observed—as also were certain lapses of conduct on the part of the carriers who at first were reluctant to confine their excretory activities to their own lavatories. Ultimately, observations showed that hygienic precautions were being satisfactorily and continuously carried out.

The appearance of paratyphoid bacilli in the sewage effluent, which was discharged into the River Welland, constituted a further danger to public health, and elimination of this effluent was arranged.

Dr. W. Szayna, Resident Medical Officer at the Camp, co-operated fully in dealing with this problem and undertook the inoculation of all residents not previously protected. My thanks are due to Mr. Turner and Mr. Harris for the energetic manner in which they undertook the duties of sampling. 415 samples of faeces and urine were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, together with four samples of blood.





